

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:FMISCH:CHG
APPROVED BY EA - MR GLEYSTEN
EUR/SOV:JMONTGOMERY

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R 170621Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012251

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EPAP, KS, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET-KOREAN RELATIONS
REF: SEOUL 0334

1. AS AMBASSADOR NOTED, USG WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO ROK FIRMS PURCHASING SOVIET LUMBER THROUGH JAPANESE INTER-MEDIARIES. WE WOULD ALSO HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THE ROK'S SCREENING SOVIET FILMS, ALTHOUGH TO DO SO WOULD CLEARLY BE A DECISION FOR THE ROKG. WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT DISGUISED IMPORT OF LUMBER THPOUGH JAPAN WOULD BE PREDICATED UPON HIGHLY VISIBLE SOVIET FILM IMPORTS, ALTHOUGH SITUATION DESCRIOED BY PAK MAY REPRESENT OFFER MADE AT LOWER LEVELS OF SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE BUREAUCRACY IN HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE CLEARED LATER BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT SUPERIORS.

2. WE HAVE SOME CONCERNS ABOUT USING PAK AS A CONVEYER OF US VIEWS. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE THAT EMBASSY SHOULD
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SEEK EARLY OPPORTUNITY AND APPROPRIATE CHANNEL TO MAKE OUR

VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE KNOWN TO THE ROKG.

3. FYI: WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY ROK EM0ASSY OFFICERS THAT
CONSIDERABLE QUANTITY OF ROK-MADE CONSUMER GOODS ALREADY

EXPORTED TO SOVIET UNION THROUGH JAPANESE PARENT FIRMS
OR TRADING COMPANIES. SOME OF THIS TRADE BECAME KNOWN
WHEN FACTORY WORKERS COMPLAINED THAT INSTRUCTION MANUALS
FOR EQUIPMENT WERE PRINTED WITH "SOME LETTERS REVERSED."
JAPANESE FIRMS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THAT PRODUCTS IN
QUESTION WERE DESTINED FOR SOVIET UNION. END FYI

KISSINGER

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